

PERITY IN EE LIBRARIES

Should Be in Possession of One.

**People Are Against the
Closing—Most Cities Now Have
Majority Given or Gift.**

the inhabitants can procure into the labors of the mighty what is going on in the increase knowledge. A majority of cities of millions and upward in the states, says a New York editor a public library of some the same is true of many of our cities and towns. But still quite a number of towns miss them, towns that really in. A few public spirited could easily advocate a library

of the libraries already established have been founded on gifts of books, some have developed from private libraries, but the majority are supported mainly or entirely by public subscription. The latter are appreciably numerous in the formative stage, though true of those for which buildings have been erected from funds raised by Mr. Carnegie and for which he has provided the seed money. In the latter case, the public subscription is usually for the building, and the Carnegie fund is for the books, which are purchased by the library.

library buildings are simple. The trust provides a site, which it may buy by gift if it can, and it must provide annually for the maintenance of the library a sum equal to the cost of the cost of

...people who have no taxable property and who therefore often erroneously suppose that they contribute nothing toward the payment of the tax are usually quite willing to have a higher tax rate imposed for the purpose of securing for themselves and their families free library facilities. Although in exceptional cases religious and sociological opinions may lead them to oppose it.

cond.—That the furnishing free
tends to pauperize the commu-
and to discourage the purchase of

fourth.—That the greater part of the books used are works of fiction, and that these are injurious to the readers.


fifth.—That most of the arguments in favor of free public libraries are merely sentimental and emotional.

ably do so for advertising and general reasons or to make a place for themselves or some of their relatives. While it is difficult to trace to almost precise instances of materialism in the province, it is certain that the general diffusion of intelligence which has certainly affected does result because in these directions. Commercialism is flourishing free schools and universities are usually more generous and better than those without such condition, and while there is doubtless some here for a confusion of commercialism and effect it is probable that there is a new action and reaction. Prosperity is the result for increased facilities for education, and these in turn tend to make the community more prosperous.

no doubt that where there is a circulating library there is an educated community. Every town, large or small, has 400 or 50,000 people, and the circulating library can furnish some sort of education for the inhabitants. The circulating library can procure books for the laborers of the mighty machine, and it can show them what is going on in the world and increase their knowledge. The great majority of cities of the United States have circulating libraries.

...the same is true of many of our cities and towns. But still quite a number of towns ignore them, towns that really are. A few public spirited citizens easily advocate a library

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...ing room and get the support of the community if not of a itself. They will always be forthcoming from the shelves of individual or from contributions solicited various means. The survey will always keep their town to the financial support of the ch- of the libraries already estab-

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poses for the erection of munici-
pal library buildings are simple. The
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...not ask for it as a gift.
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...although in exceptional cases citizens
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...to oppose it.

...considerable number of taxpayers
...are not less reluctant to have their
...tax payments increased for this purpose.

...say,
...that they should not be tax-
...ed for things they do not want and
...if none,
...-yet the furnishing free

and to discourage the purchase of
for home use.
point.—That there is no evidence

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countries are usually more progressive

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be commonly more prominent.

